

15 January 1983

SAN FRANCISCO

TURNER

A former Central Intelligence Agency director says President Reagan's dismissal of his top two arms control negotiators has left the U.S. team "in total disarray."

Adm. Stansfield Turner told reporters after a Commonwealth Club speech that the firing of Eugene Rostow and Richard Staar also gave the Russians "a psychological advantage."

Turner said in his speech that the Reagan administration's inconsistent Soviet policy has confused American allies and the Russians, making it more difficult for both groups to understand U.S. policy.

"I have seen some confusing signals from the Reagan administration in the last year years," he said. "The rhetoric has been anti-Soviet but the actions have not."

Turner, the CIA director in the Carter administration, was referring to Reagan's lifting of the grain and Soviet pipeline embargoes.

Of the firing of Rostow and Staar, he said: "The American arms control team and strategy are in total disarray, giving (Soviet leader Yuri) Andropov a psychological advantage. He is getting a lot of good press and publicity for being forthcoming on controlling and reducing arms."

"Arms control is a complex issue. But on the surface Andropov scored a lot of points in Western Europe when immediately after assuming office he proposed a mutual arms reduction, which Reagan promptly turned down."